

Our Parish Family:
Cherishing the Past,
Celebrating the Present,
Embracing the Future.



North Bedford
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

The North Bedford
Catholic Community of
Holy Cross Church and
Ss Philip and James Church

The month of August is dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary/September to Our Lady of Sorrows 2026

Twenty-Second Week in Ordinary Time

Sunday Mass Cycle: Year A; Weekday: Year 2; Psalter 2

The live-stream from HC is at www.mcn.live

HC - Holy Cross; PJ/SsP&J - Ss Philip and James; STM - St Thomas More school

Sat 29 Aug	Vigil of the Twenty-Second Sunday
5:30pm HC	Vigil Mass: <i>Missa pro populo</i>
Sun 30 Aug	Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
9:00am HC	Mass: Christopher Gordon-Styes, RIP
11:00am PJ	Mass: Kimberley - private intention
Mon 31 Aug	Feria
10:00am PJ	No liturgy
Tue 1 Sep	Feria
9:40am HC	Lauds (Morning Prayer)
10:00am HC	Mass: Raj Sohun, RIP - 36 th Anniversary
Wed 2 Sep	Feria
10:00am HC	Mass: Harvey Papper, RIP <i>followed by the Sacrament of Confession and Eucharistic Adoration until 11:00am</i>
Thu 3 Sep	St Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor - Feast
8:20am STM	Mass: All Staff and Parents
9:40am PJ	Lauds (Morning Prayer)
10:00am PJ	Mass: The people of Donetsk
Fri 4 Sep	Feria
10:00am HC	Mass: Michael Simmonds - birthday wishes
7:00pm PJ	Mass: <i>Missa pro populo</i>
Sat 5 Sep	Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary
10:00am PJ	Mass: Dalton Family, RIP <i>followed by the Sacrament of Confession and Eucharistic Adoration until 11:15am</i>
5:30pm HC	Vigil Mass: Byrne Family, RIP
Sun 6 Sep	Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
9:00am HC	Mass: <i>Missa pro populo</i>
11:00am PJ	Mass: Val and Thelma Lobhan, RIP

NB: We seek to open the Church **thirty minutes** before any Mass or liturgy

Responsorial Psalm:

For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord, my God.

Season of Creation

Tuesday, 1st September - Sunday, 4th October

The World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, celebrated on Tuesday, 1st September, is the official start of the **Season of Creation**, a time of sustained prayer and action which lasts a month and four days. During this season we are encouraged to pray and engage in community events to deepen our relationship with God, our neighbour and the earth we share, being ever more attentive to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. In a statement to mark this year's **Season of Creation**, the *Lead Bishop for the Environment for the Bishops' Conference*, Bishop John Arnold, has called for Catholics in England and Wales to take action to address the environmental crises of our times. This action, he says, needs to take place at every level in society – from the personal to the parish, in politics and in business.

The Legion of Mary - All those interested in joining the **Legion of Mary**, or anyone who would like more information, should wait after the 9:00am and 11:00am Masses next Sunday, 6th September.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Philippa Anne Willis, RIP**. Her funeral liturgy will be at 1:00pm this Wednesday, 2nd September, in Holy Cross church.

And please pray for the repose of the soul of **Concetta 'Connie' Leone, RIP**, whose funeral liturgy will be on Monday, 7th September in Holy Cross church at 11:00am. A private family service will follow at Norse Road Crematorium.

Please pray also for the repose of the soul of **Brigitte McMahon, RIP**, whose funeral Mass will be in Holy Cross church on Monday, 14th September at **12:30pm** and **NOT** from midday as previously stated in the newsletter. Mass is followed by a service in Norse Road Crematorium for all.

Please also pray for the repose of the soul of **Eileen Bull, RIP**, who died recently and whose funeral arrangements will be announced later.

The **Sacrament of Reconciliation** and **Eucharistic Adoration** is on Wednesdays at HC after Mass until 11:00am and every Saturday from 11:00 - 11:15am in SsP&J.

Our Parish Priest is Fr Alexander Ibe, SMMM

Email: fralexander.ibe@northamptondiocese.org

Our Assistant Priest is Fr Richard Onuoha, SMMM

Email: frrichard.onuoha@northamptondiocese.org

The Presbytery, 2 Severn Way, Bedford MK41 7BX Tel: (01234) 352607

HC: Holy Cross Church, 355 Goldington Road, Bedford MK41 0DP

SsP&J/PJ: St Philip and St James Church, 2 Severn Way, Bedford MK41 7BX

Newsletters are available through CASPAR, and on our website. To receive our newsletter electronically,

please register with CASPAR, either by QR code or by [hyperlink](#) →, and tick the relevant box.

(Holy Cross: www.caspar.church/me/?ID=55969

Deacon: Rev. Tony Quinlan: Tel: (01234) 950453; deacontony.quinlan@northamptondiocese.org

(Ss Philip and James: www.caspar.church/me/?ID=55971

Deacon: Rev. Crispin Walking-Lea: Tel: 07941 884645; deaconcrispin.walkinglea@northamptondiocese.org

Parish Safeguarding Representatives (PSR): HC; Shirley Whiterod 07955 670543 and SsP&J; Ann-Marie Blaney 07867 757598

Website: northbedfordcatholics.org.uk (Contact the Webmaster through the website) Facebook: **North Bedford Catholic Community**

Parish Secretary HC, Sheila Allen (Mondays and Thursdays: 9:00am - 12:00pm) Tel: (01234) 353116; parish.holycross@northamptondiocese.org

Parish Secretary Ss P&J, Mariateresa Quinlan (Tuesdays: 11:15am - 3:15pm) Tel: (01234) 353116; Parish.SsPhilipandJames@northamptondiocese.org

Items for the Newsletter to the editor, by the Sunday before publication. Tel/text: 07986 357 320; email: charlie.stallard@gmail.com



PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORJE

19th - 25th September 2026, £845 pp

Still two places left!

Spiritual Director: Fr. Alex Ibe SMMM

£845

Sharing in twin or double room (single room +£210)

TRAVELLING

19th - 25th Sep. '26
7 days, London Luton
with easyJet

Organised by Mrs Hetty Okonji, tel. 07590731488

INCLUDED

- Return flight between London Luton and Split (with easyJet)
- 6 nights at Hotel Marconi, Medjugorje, 4*, or similar standard
- Half board (breakfast and dinner)
- Check-in luggage 23kg + small hand carry
- Transfers between airport and hotel
- Executive coach for touring
- Professional English-speaking guide throughout
- UK Airport taxes and Government charges
- Personalised travel pack for each pilgrim including: hymn booklet, name badge and lanyard, luggage tag, general information booklet, flight information sheet, boarding passes where applicable

NOT INCLUDED

- Travel Insurance (compulsory)
- Single room (limited availability), £210 for 6 nights
- Tips & Gratuities of £15 pp to be added to your invoice. Compulsory. Paid directly to guide, driver and hotel staff.

All Altar Servers are encouraged to participate in the **Training and Pizza Gathering** to welcome new members. The training and welcome will be this **Wednesday, 2nd September at 7:00pm in Holy Cross church**. All Altar Servers are encouraged to attend.

Confirmation Mass 2026

The Area Dean, Fr Prasad Kasireddy, MSFS, will visit our united community to celebrate the **Sacrament of Confirmation** for our young people on Friday, 11th September at 7:00pm in Holy Cross church.

RCIA – Journey into the Catholic Faith

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a process in the Catholic Church that prepares adults for the sacraments of **Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist**. The programme starts this month and runs in stages of study and prayer. Please email the parish office via parish.holycross@northamptondiocese.org or call 01234 353116 or 01234 352607 to register.

Confirmation programme 2027

Application forms for our **Youth Confirmation Programme 2026/27** are available from our website: northbedfordcatholics.org.uk/sections/2027-confirmation-programme
Forms should be returned to the parish office at Holy Cross.
Final date for applications is next Sunday, 6th September.

Appeal for Volunteers for the 60th and 70th Anniversaries

As we prepare to celebrate the **60th and 70th anniversaries of Ss Philip and James Parish and Holy Cross Parish, respectively, next year**, we invite parishioners to assist in organising this joyful milestone. See previous newsletters.

The online **Rosary Group** meets from 8:00am to 8:20am weekdays on Zoom. ID: 833 1504 6319 Password: Rosary

SsP&J Repository is closed this Sunday Mass only. **HC Repository** will be open before and after Mass as usual.

You may make donations in the same way as if using the **DONA** machines in the narthexes of our churches by use of these QR Codes.

Holy Cross



Ss Philip and James



All welcome

Ages 13-18



North Bedford
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

YOUTH Group meetings & events 2026/27

FRIDAYS monthly 6.30 – 8.00 PM

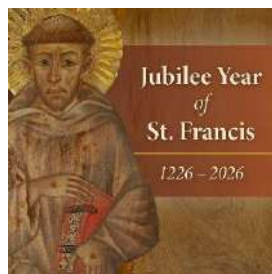
Holy Cross Church Hall, 355 Goldington Road, Bedford

- 18th SEPTEMBER 26 (St Philip & St James)
- 9th OCTOBER 26
- 13th NOVEMBER 26
- 11th DECEMBER 26
- 12th FEBRUARY 27
- 7th MARCH 27 - Youth Mass Holy Cross 9am
- 12th MARCH 27
- 9th APRIL 27
- 14th MAY 27
- 11th JUNE 27
- 27th JUNE 27 - Youth Mass St Philip & St James 11am
- 9th JULY 27
- 21st NOVEMBER 27 – Feast of Christ the King Youth Mass (Holy Cross 9am; St Philip & St James 11am)

GAMES* *FOOD* *FUN* *FRIENDSHIP* *PRAYER

*****ALL FREE – SEE YOU THERE*****

For enquiries and further information, please contact
commsnbcc@northamptondiocese.org



Franciscan Jubilee Year Pilgrimage

This year marks 800 years since the death of St Francis of Assisi, and Pope Leo XIV has proclaimed a Special Jubilee Year. To celebrate, the **Bedfordshire Pastoral Area** is organising pilgrimage visits to **St Francis of Assisi church in Shefford**.

Our joint parish is visiting on **Saturday, 5th September**, arriving by 10:00am. Spiritual activities will include Mass, a brief history of the Shefford parish, an introduction to the life of St Francis, Novena prayer, talks, etc.

If you would like to participate, please sign the sheet in the Narthex. There are flyers for you to take.

Bring a packed lunch. Tea and coffee will be provided. We will leave Shefford between 1:00pm and 2:00pm.

Parking: The main entrance to St Francis' is on the High Street in the middle of Shefford. Disabled parking and step-free drop-off is available behind the church, off St Francis Way at **SG17 5DZ** (turn off the High Street at the Co-op, over the zebra crossing and turn immediately left). Parking is available on the High Street (some time restrictions apply on Saturdays) and at Town Meadow car park on Old Station Way, **SG17 5ED** (turn off the High Street at the mini roundabout and follow the road around). Parking in Morrisons' car park is limited to only two hours so is not suitable for pilgrims. Please respect the church's neighbours and do not park in the spaces allocated to the adjacent flats and any marked bays.

St Vincent's

Together, we can make a difference

1:00pm to 3:30pm every Tuesday in Holy Cross Church

